The Right Angle

Where Gay Conservatives Intersect

January & February 1998 No. Six

Republican Becomes First Openly Gay D.C. Councilman

Photo by Client Steib/Washington Blade

David Catania

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

Capitalizing on low voter turnout, David Catania, a Republican in an overwhelmingly Democratic city, was elected to the D.C. Council in December, becoming the legislative body's first openly Gay member.

With less than 7 percent of the District's 341,407 registered voters participating in the election, Catania won with 45 percent of the vote, beating his veteran political nemesis Arrington Dixon, a Democrat, in the four-candidate special election for an at-large seat. Dixon received 35 percent. Pundits believe had there been a larger turnout Catania would not have won. Democrats outnumber Republicans in the District 10 to 1.

Catania describes himself as a pro-choice, progressive Republican who is conservative on fiscal issues but liberal on social issues. During his campaign, he was reluctant to talk about the significance of being homosexual, said The Washington Times.

However, in the Gay community his cam-

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Hormel's Ambassadorship In Limbo Until January

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

The U.S. Senate adjourned in November, leaving James Hormel's nomination as ambassador to Luxembourg in limbo until it reconvenes in January. If approved, Hormel will be the nation's first openly Gay ambassador.

Hormel's nomination first passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a voice vote with 49 other ambassadorial nominees.

The 64-year-old heir to the Hormel meat company fortune told the commit-

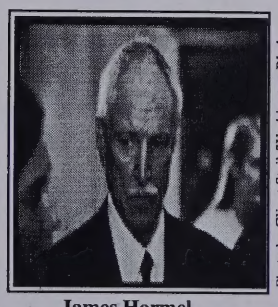

Photo by Client Steib/Washington Blade

James Hormel

tee: "I have had a truly extraordinary life, filled with challenges and opportunities, blessed by family and friends, and privileged by

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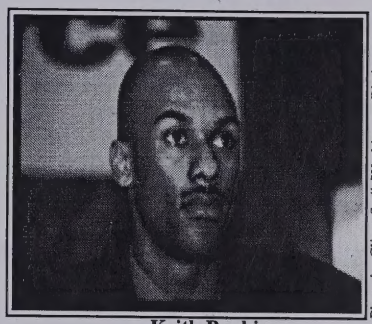

Photo by Client Steib/Washington Blade

Keith Boykin

Leadership Forum Casts Wide Net For New Chief

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum is searching for a new executive director to replace Keith Boykin, who is leaving the organization in February.

Boykin's successor will be on board for the 11th annunal conference scheduled for February in Washington, D.C.

The new leader will take the reins upon Boykin's departure and work closely with the board of directors, maintain daily operations and conduct fundraisers in conjunction with expousing the organization's philosophy, which is to advocate on behalf of the nation's Black Lesbians and Gays and to develop new leaders.

Some observers say "a lipstick Lesbian" with Boykin's mainstream appeal will be chosen. Sherry Harris and Sabrina Sojourner, two former board members, have been mentioned as the leading candidates. They are nationally connected to African American Gay and Lesbian politics.

Harris is a former Seattle City

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Leaders Hurl Flurry Of Issues at Gephardt

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

House Minority Leader Rep. Richard Gephardt met with Gay political leaders Oct. 29 to discuss a range of issues. The leaders did most of the talking while Gephardt absorbed the discussion like a sponge, giving little reaction, said a source who attended the meeting. The leaders hurled numerous issues at Gephardt.

According to Gay leaders and Gephardt's office, key topics were: passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act; funding for AIDS care and research, including the controversial needle exchange program; overall health care; the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy; and harassment of Gay students by their peers.

Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund, a Washington-based organization that helps openly Gay and Lesbian candidates get elected, said in an interview that he urged Gephardt to "guarantee that Democratic Party leaders give qualified openly Gay and Lesbian candidates fair and equal consideration for all offices, especially those running for Congress."

"It is extremely important that Rep. Gephardt use his influence to ensure that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and its allies take viable Gay candidates seriously," Bond said.

According to the Victory Fund, Gephardt said he was impressed by the number of Gay and Lesbian candidates running for the House of Representatives and complimented their viability.

Bond said Gephardt assured leaders that he will make certain that Gay and Lesbian candidates are treated fairly.

Bond worked for Gephardt during his bid for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. While attending the Gay and Lesbian meeting, Bond said he recognized some of the operatives from the 1988 campaign.

"I understood the politics of the meeting," said Bond.

Bond stated that Gephardt's short-term goal is to help Democrats retake the House, while positioning himself for the presidential race in 2000.

The organizations represented at the meeting were the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the Human Rights Campaign and the AIDS Action Council.

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Powell Denied Honor By San Francisco Board

Supervisors Oppose His Military Views

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

The San Franciso Board of Supervisors' resolution to honor retired Gen. Colin Powell was denied because of his anti-Gay military views.

The December resolution commended Powell for working with delegations from President Clinton's Summit for America's Future from around the country and urging the San Francisco business and nonprofit community to assist the local delegation with time and money on the summit's goals.

Tom Amminano, one of three openly Gay supervisors, refused to support the resolution to honor Powell's volunteer work and fundraising for poor children in the San Francisco area. Amminano's refusal forced the proposal into committee for a public hearing and debate, according to The Associated Press (AP).

Since the resolution did not receive a unanimous vote by the 11-member board, the author of the resolution refused to pursue it in committee, according to his office. As a result, it's dead. Amminano was the only supervisor who opposed the resolution.

Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with other conservatives opposed President Clinton's efforts to enable Gays and Lesbians to serve in the military. Powell's name draws a "red flag," Amminano said.

Supervisor Gavin Newsom, who is Straight, introduced the resolution. Newsom said he does not like the general's position on Gays in the military, "but the resolution was not about Colin Powell and everything he's stood for. We're not talking about the anti-Christ here," he told AP.

A spokeswoman from Newsom's office said the Gay and Lesbian community in the San Francisco area supported the resolution 20 to 1.

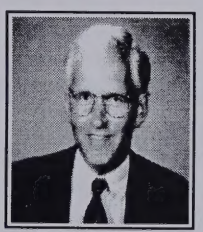
In an interview, C. Dixon Osburn, co-executive director of the network, said, "I struggle with the Board of Supervisors' decision because it is a complex issue."

The network represents service members facing scrutiny under the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Dixon added, "I think the Board of Supervisors should hold Powell accountable for his actions on Gays in the military. Aside from holding him accountable, I have not given it full thought. His decision not to support Gays and Lesbians openly was a great mistake and hurtful to the country even though he had all the facts before him. Despite this complex decision, Powell has done some positive things."

Gunderson, Partner Join Human Rights Board

Former Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wis.) and his partner, Rob Morris, have joined the Human Rights Campaign's national board of governors.

The announcement came during the campaign's annual dinner Nov. 8 in Washington, D.C. The campaign is the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian political organization.



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paign focused on support for same-sex marriage, overturning a Congressional ban on implementation of D.C.'s domestic partners law, elevating the D.C. Office of Human Rights to an independent, cabinet-level agency and legalizing marijuana for medical treatment.

On the other side of the coin, Catania supports school vouchers and the death penalty for defendants convicted of killing law enforcement officers.

Catania said he wanted support from the Gay community based on the issues, not on his sexual orientation. "I'm not asking Gay people to vote for me because I'm Gay. I'm asking Gay people to vote for me because they care about safe streets and good schools and accountable government, and because they are just as upset about the potholes and the destruction of the Office of HIV/AIDS as I am," said Catania to The Washington Blade, a Gay and Lesbian newspaper.

The 29-year-old regulatory attorney received support from The National Log Cabin Republicans, a Gay lobbying organization, and from Jule Finley, chairwoman of the D.C. Republican Committee.

Carol Schwartz, a Republican Council member, did not endorse Catania. Schwartz, a heterosexual, has sought and received the endorsement of the local Log Cabin chapter over the years. Unofficially some of her staff members volunteered to help Catania's campaign.

Besides Republican backing, Catania won with strong support from Gays and independents who are heavily concentrated in White sections of the predominantly Black city. Catania is White; Dixon is Black. Catania's campaign linked Dixon to D.C. Mayor Marion Barry at every opportunity for all the negative things wrong with the District. He studied Dixon's political history,

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Hormel's Ambassadorship In Limbo Until January

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background and education, which make me uniquely qualified to represent our great country."

As a standard, most nominations sail through the Senate on a voice vote. But after Hormel's testimony, at least three conservative Republicans — James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma, Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas and John Ashcroft of Montana — put a hold on his nomination, preventing a roll call vote. The Senate later adjourned.

Hormel's ambassadorship faces an uphill battle. Inhofe, Hutchinson and Republican Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina have denounced Hormel's pro-Gay record. The Gay philanthropist has been active in the Democratic Party and is a primary contributor to it. He is a founding member of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest Gay and Lesbian lobbying organization, and sits on the board of the HRC Foundation. Hormel supports same-sex marriage, which conservatives and President Clinton are opposed to.

In an interview, Gary Hoitisma, press secretary for Inhofe, said,

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Annise Parker

Lesbian Wins Council Seat In Houston

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

Despite last-minute Gay baiting by her opponent, the first open Lesbian won an at-large seat on Houston's City Council in December. Annise Parker, a Democrat, garnered 57.9 percent of the vote to Democrat Don Fitch's 42.1 percent.

"Houston's fair-minded voters were looking for the best-qualified candidate for the job, and Parker clearly fits the bill," said Brian Bond, executive director of the Victory Fund, a national organization whose mission is to increase the number of openly Gay and Lesbian public officials.

A former member of the fund's board of directors and a graduate of the Victory Foundation's candidate training institute, Parker came in second to Fitch in the highly competitive seven-way election on Nov. 4, propelling both into the Dec. 6 run-off.

Fitch made a campaign promise not to make Parker's sexual orientation an issue. But after a Houston Chronicle poll showed the race was

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Publicist for Anti-Gay Song Has Ties to Gay Community

Young Wrote About Gays, AIDS and Was Considered an Ally

Angie & Debbie Winans

By Steve Langley
The Right Angle

A publicist promoting an anti-Gay song that has gained attention has written numerous newspaper stories about the impact of AIDS on Washington, D.C., and his new endeavor has surprised some Gay leaders who considered him an ally to the community.

Vincent Young, co-founder of the Washington-based company Capital Entertainment, is helping to publicize "It's Not Natural," a contemporary gospel song by Angie & Debbie Winans of the famous gospel family from Detroit. The speaker in the song tells of being "vexed in the spirit" by the Lesbian and Gay community's celebration of a closeted television character who has come out, referring to the ABC show "Ellen."

The song's chorus says of homosexuality: "It's not natural/No, that's not the way God planned/It's time for the world to understand."

But Young questions the fairness of calling the Winans and his company hateful towards Gays. "Even though the Gay community is upset about the lyrics of the song and they feel the song is preaching hate, is it fair to say if I'm against homosexuality I'm preaching hate?" he asks in The Washington Times. "Basically, I'm tired of being told if you don't believe what we believe, we're promoting hate."

Young is a familiar face in Washington's AIDS and Gay community. From 1993 to 1996, he wrote at least eight stories about the disease for The Washington Post. In 1994, he wrote two stories about The Whitman Walker Clinic, a Lesbian and Gay facility. On March 3, 1994, The Post published a story Young wrote about Us Helping Us, an organization of Black Gay and Bisexual men who advocate alternative treatment therapies.

Rev. Rainey Cheeks, founder of the organization and the primary source for the story, says he met Young about 10 years ago when a mutual friend of theirs died from AIDS complications. He said he and Young were friends when Young interviewed him.

Cheeks says he is "very surprised"

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Forum Calls Jackson CD 'Courageous'

By Steve Langley
The Right Angle

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum applauded singer Janet Jackson for her "courageous use of sexual orientation themes" in her new album, 'The Velvet Rope."

The album features several tracks that deal with sexual orientation, including "Free Xone," which discusses male and female same-sex relationships. "The Velvet Rope," according to a Nov. 17 news release from the forum, "condemns oppression and hatred of people because of their differences."

Jackson also dedicated her song "Together Again" "to the friends I've lost to AIDS."

Keith Boykin, executive director of the organization, calls the tracks "a significant step forward in getting the music industry to represent the diversity of our communities."

"Janet Jackson has boldly and compassionately taken on issues that other major entertainers have avoided," he adds. "Janet is willing to talk openly and supportively about homosexuality and bisexuality and to help clear the air of fear and misunderstanding."

The forum has applauded the work of other performers, including openly Bisexual singer Me'Shell Ndege-Ocello, who performed at its seventh annual conference in Secaucus, N.J., in 1994.

Black Leadership Forum Searching for New Chief

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Councilwoman who served as the first openly Lesbian African American elected to public office in the United States. She is noted as a national leader in the Lesbian and Gay civil rights and women's movements.

Sojourner is the shadow representative in Congress fighting for statehood for Washington, D.C. A longtime activist in local politics, she lost her bid in August for a seat on the D.C. Council, the city's legislative body.

Boykin, who announced his departure in October, would not comment on the rumor that the organization plans to hire a woman to replace him. Dr. Dennis R. Holmes, head of the search committee seeking Boykin's successor, denied that the forum is specifically looking for a woman, though he added: "Personally, I think it would be good that a woman would head the organization."

Sources said Lesbians are dominating the organization or are at least heavily influencing it.

In the fall of 1996, women persuaded the forum to rename itself so that "Lesbian" appears before "Gay" as a symbolic means of promoting greater Lesbian visibility.

Lesbians continue to play a key role in the organization. Mandy Carter, an activist, was hired as the national field director. Vallerie Wagner served as the chairwoman for the 10th anniversay conference in which Joycelyn Elders, Alice Walker and June Jordan were speakers. The current board of directors is made up of seven women and four men.

He denies the rumors but maintains close ties to these agencies.

"I have no desire to be a lawyer anymore. I am not interested in working for the Justice Department. My contact is no longer there," said Boykin.

Prior to working for the forum, he served as an assistant to President Clinton. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman was considering Boykin for a position as her special assistant five months ago, according to a source.

Herman could not be reached for comment.

"The forum is an organization in crisis. It has been in crisis for the last 10 years. It is struggling. It is not like the organization has goods and services to sell," said Keith Boykin, executive director.

But it has been Boykin who has been the forum's most visible leader over the past two years. He has been a trailblazer, serving as the organization's first executive director and national spokesman. He used a national tour to promote his nonfiction book, "One More River to Cross," to champion the importance of the organization.

But he has requested that his contract not be renewed for a third term, primarily because of money issues and the overall plight of the organization. Boykin said he is leaving to pursue writing, public speaking, teaching, consulting and fundraising for the organization. Reliable sources said Boykin will rejoin the Clinton-Gore administration with a job in either the Justice, Transportation or Labor Department.

Boykin was hired as the forum's first executive director in September 1995 when leaders expanded the scope of the organization from a Los Angeles-based group that merely put on a yearly conference to an on-going national body. But "there was no money to pay my salary and others and to open the national office in Washington, D.C. We did it on faith," said Boykin. According to Holmes, Boykin is paid $60,000 annually.

Boykin said, "The forum is an organization in crisis. It has been in crisis for the last 10 years. It is struggling. It is not like the organization

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Publicist for Anti-Gay Song Has Ties to Gay Community

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that Young is promoting the song, since the article was supportive of his organization and of Black Gay and Bisexual men facing HIV and AIDS. "When I found out, I didn't believe it was the same person," Cheeks says.

"Why would he do something like this?," Cheeks asks. How many pieces of silver is this worth? And is this really going to help his career?"

Cheeks says Young has not returned his phone calls.

Years ago, Cheeks says, Young also told him that, while he worked for The Post, he was part of the paper's investigation of Archbishop George Stallings, pastor of Imani Temple, an independent Black Catholic church based in Washington. In September 1989, the paper published a story quoting an unnamed man who claimed that Stallings had sex with him when he was a 16-year-old altar boy. Stallings denied the allegation.

Ric Irick, publisher of the Malebox, a monthly magazine for Black Gay men, and producer of "BGM Talkshow," a discussion-group companion to the magazine, says he met Young when Young interviewed him for a Washington Post article about the Black Gay community. Irick says Young told him six months later that The Post's editors never published the story.

Irick, too, is "surprised that he would back an effort like this and make it more difficult for Gays."

Irick says when he learned of Young's role in pushing the song, he called him to talk about the song and about Young's career, since years earlier when they both had corporate jobs they had talked about starting their own businesses. Irick says Young never returned his call.

Young could not be reached for comment.

"It's Not Natural" has thrust the Winans sisters into the spotlight. The duo performed it Nov. 8 on the Black Entertainment Television (BET) show "Teen Summit," which is aired nationwide. The youths swayed to the song, but the show, which features talk segments on various issues, did not include a discussion of its message.

But on Oct. 28, "BET Tonight with Tavis Smiley" devoted several minutes to the topic. The show featured the singers and pro- and anti-Gay panelists in a vigorous debate, mainly over The Bible's view of homosexuality.

Keith Boykin, the executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and one of the panelists, said the artists have a right to sing what they believe but must take responsibility for their words, which "could be traumatic and harmful, particularly to young Gay and Lesbian people, who are three times more likely to attempt suicide than non-Gay youths."

The song surfaced Sept. 18, when Capital Entertainment faxed a press release to Lesbian and Gay news organizations, telling them that the song "is igniting controversy in Gay communities, including Gay churches, because it denounces homosexuality and attacks the Gay movement." The release called the song "part of Angie & Debbie's national crusade to help 'emancipate' people from the sinful 'bondage' of homosexuality."

But at the time, few had heard of it. Boykin has accused Capital Entertainment of creating the debate in order to

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Panelists Probe Hidden History Of Gay Places

By Steve Langley
The Right Angle

A group of panelists met in Sante Fe, NM, in October to explore ways of identifying and documenting historic Lesbian and Gay sites around the country.

The session, titled "Hidden History: Identifying and Interpreting Gay and Lesbian Places," was held Oct. 18 during the National Preservation Conference, a gathering dedicated to protecting the nation's historic sites. It marked the first time the conference discussed Gay issues.

Gerald Takano, the panel's moderator, said in an interview that there are many historic sites that have Gay identities, such as the Stonewall bar in New York's Greenwhich Village, the home of the late poet Walt Whitman in New Jersey and the photo shop of assassinated City Supervisor Harvey Milk on Castro Street in San Francisco.

But documenting them as legitimate landmarks using standard methods is a challenge, he said, since much of Gay history has been hidden. Before the Stonewall rebellion in 1969, most Gays met secretly under fear of arrest and persecution. Many of the places have assumed new identities, and the people who were a part of the era have died or are reluctant to discuss the past.

Examining Gay history raises other prickly issues, said Takano, a senior program associate at the Western Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in San Francisco. "How do you discuss parks, bathhouses and other sexual gathering places that were the only outlets for Gay people in terms that mainstream historians will accept?,"

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which Catania said he uncovered through thousands of newspaper clippings dating back to the 1970s. "I know so much about him I can finish his sentences," Catania told The Blade.

Catanianites repeatedly accused Dixon of presiding over the city during the early days of mismanagement. Catania attacked Dixon for not returning hundreds of thousands of transition dollars after Dixon lost the City Council chairmanship in 1982 to Dave Clark (D).

After Clark's death, Linda Cropp (D) won his seat, leaving her at-large seat open. Until a special election was held, the D.C. Democratic State Committee selected Dixon to serve in Cropp's place. The State Committee consists of 70-members, including 12 openly Gay and Lesbian representatives who gave Dixon the edge in being selected for the post.

Dixon was selected to replace Cropp because of his 20-year history of supporting Gay and Lesbian legislation on the council and his political contributions to the community.

Dixon was hurt by low turnout among African-American voters. But many Democratic leaders and Gay activists say Dixon ran an inept campaign. He characterized his defeat as "almost unbelievable."

In retrospect, Dixon told The Washington Post, "I wish more people would have voted. I'm not comfortable with such a small turnout. . . I think it's not good."

In 1996, Catania was introduced to local politics when he ran and won an elected seat on the Sheridan-Kalorama Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC), which is a ceremonial position. While serving as chairman of the ANC, he established improved relations with the Metropolitan Police Department and the uniformed Secret Service police and helped to reduce crime in the area over one year.

But the real litmus test for Catania is whether he can win the council-at-large seat for a four-year term. He is up for reelection in November 1998 during the general election cycle.

Publicist for Anti-Gay Song Has Ties to Gay Community

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publicize the song and the artists, a charge the company has denied. He urges Lesbians and Gay men to contact the Winans, Capital Entertainment and BET to voice their concerns.

Bill Carpenter, co-founder of Capital Entertainment, says he has received about 100 letters criticizing the song, but the response has been "mostly positive" from those who have heard it on Christian AM radio stations in Washington. The song is from the duo's album "Bold," and Carpenter says there are no plans "right now" to release it as a single.

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Black Leadership Forum Searching For a New Chief

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has goods and services to sell. It is difficult for [Lesbian and Gay] African Americans to give money to organizations like the forum."

He stated that the forum needs to have financial integrity. It is unable to pay its bills and, therefore, must reduce spending.

The major sources of revenue are the annual conference, AIDS contracts and private funds. "The new executive director must be financially savvy enough to raise funds, have a strong philosophical background with financial skills and have a vision of the future," said Boykin.

With nearly a half million dollar budget, the forum runs an annual national conference which has attracted more than 1,000 Black Lesbians and Gays, a national field program, a new national youth program, an AIDS Prevention Team in South Central Los Angeles, a national Black's men project, a women's health program, an Internet website and a community center in Washington, D.C.

The forum maintains that the organization has thousands of members nationwide. It has 13 full-time employees with nine of them based in the Los Angeles office and four in the Washington office.

Boykin said heading the organization has been fulfilling. "The forum has provided the most challenging experience of my life and also the most rewarding," he said. "In my travels from Harlem to Harare [Zimbabwe] and to every major city in America, I've met Black Lesbians, Bisexuals and Gays and Transgendered people crying for the type of strong, visible leadership that the forum provides."

Panelists Probe Hidden History Of Gay Places

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he asked.

And what if the person being discussed in a Gay context was not openly Gay? "A lot of people are afraid that the process [of documenting Gay history] will out people," Takano said.

He added that interpretors who lead tours seldom discuss Lesbian and Gay aspects of a person's life or a site's past unless they are specifically asked. Visitors often have to read between the lines to get such information.

Takano said Lesbian and Gay men interested in preservation must compile the information using valid methodology and examine ways of presenting it to the public. He said anyone can apply to have a site listed on the national register of historic places. The first step is to complete an application at the nearest regional office of the National Park Service location. The site must have architectural or cultural significance, and the owner must grant permission for the listing.

"This session was the result of previous workshops in San Francisco and Seattle to bring national attention to Gay and Lesbian issues within the preservation community. We encourage others to engage in similar discussions within their own specific neighborhoods," he said in a news release.

Others on the panel were Gail Dubrow, director of historic preservation planning and design program at the University of Washington in Seattle; Mary Jane Lowe, a preservation consultant in Evergreen, Co; and William Colbourn, a preservation consultant and founding director of Wayne Preservation in Dearborn, MI.

Lesbian Wins Seat on Houston Council

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too close to call, he sent flyers emphasizing Parker's connections to Houston's Gay community and ran radio ads in which he stated, "I'm married with two sons and five grandchildren; my opponent is a Gay activist."

An oil and gas analyst, Parker is a longtime community leader with a broad base of support. She is a past president of one of Houston's oldest and most-active civic associations, and heads one of the city's leading community redevelopment corporations.

Her work on citywide issues, including neighborhood revitalization, senior services, and governmental ethics, earned her the endorsement of hundreds of state and local leaders. Parker is a member of Houston's Police Advisory Committee and a mayoral appointee on the Police Citizen's Review Committee, which has the responsibility to review citizens' use-of-force complaints.

"Electing exemplary Gay people like Parker to public office helps to eradicate the false and negative stereotypes that keep us from achieving true equality," said Kathleen DeBold, the Victory Fund's political director.

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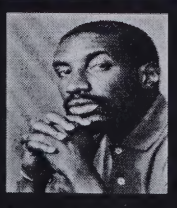


Boykin To Compile Book of Affirmations

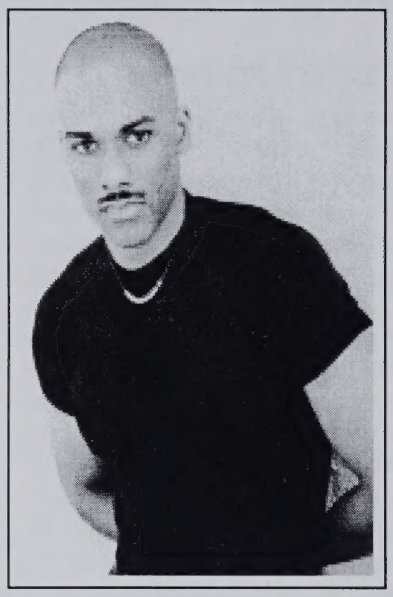
By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

Author Keith Boykin has signed a contract with the Avon Books to render his second non-fiction work, "The Power of One: Black, Gay Affirmations," scheduled for release next summer.

The book will offer affirmations and spiritual exercises designed to inspire and empower Black Lesbians and Gay men to love and nurture themselves, according to the company.

Similar in format to the hugely successful "Acts of Faith" by Ianyla Vanzant, the book will contain a page devoted to each day of the year, providing inspiring words from African Americans who have contributed to history.

It will also include brief histories of lesser-known Black Lesbians and Gay men such as Glenn Burke, a former baseball player for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Harvard University Chaplain Peter Gomes. The book will cover themes such as faith, courage, self-esteem, overcoming homophobia, AIDS and racism.



Keith Boykin

" 'The Power of One' is a tentative title I came up with it in January 1997. It may change," he said. The author of "One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America," who is also executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum said, "My first book was easy to write because I wasn't working."

Forum Supports Lee's Appointment

By Leonard Green
The Right Angle

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum announced its support of President Clinton's decision to name Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights, to the nation's top civil rights position and questioned the Republican opposition to two other nominees.

Keith Boykin, executive director of the forum, said, "We are clearly pleased that the president has decided to appoint Lee to this important position, and we encourage the administration to submit Lee's name later for the permanent position."

The organization is asking Republicans to stop blocking the nominations of David Satcher for surgeon general and James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg. The forum said, "There is a troubling pattern in the opposition to these nominees," noting that Less is Asian-American, Satcher is African-American and Hormel is White and openly Gay.

Trent Lott (R-Miss), majority leader in the Senate, and other conservatives support Satcher's nomination. Lott has indicated that Satcher will be confirmed.

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President Bill Clinton is innocent until proven guilty. Therefore, the media and others should back off.

Hormel's Ambassadorship In Limbo Until January

Continued From Page Five

"Senator Inhofe plans to force a recorded vote on the nomination of Hormel. He is not supporting a Gay-rights agenda. The senator will go on record of not supporting the nomination, and he will also not allow the nomination to go forward without a full debate and a roll-call vote."

Prior to Hormel's nomination coming before the Foreign Relations Committee, Helms, the committee chairman, won concessions from the State Department that Hormel would not promote homosexuality as an ambassador and that his lover would refrain from the role of an ambassadorial spouse.

But the concessions may be a moot point. It has been reported that Hormel and his lover have separated. San Francisco Examiner columnist Rob Morse reported that Hormel now has a bright and witty new lover.

Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Ga.) told The Washington Times that the nomination should not be awarded as a payoff to the Gay community. Conservatives and moderates see the nomination as a political reward for the support Gays gave to the Clinton-Gore campaigns.

The Examiner reported that Hormel donated $125,000 to the Democratic campaign after Vice President Al Gore made a personal appeal for the funds.

Clinton's operatives are lobbying senators, assuring them that Hormel will serve as a U.S., not a Gay, ambassador. If Hormel gets the post, he won't have to sit at the U.S. embassy and feel isolated. Morse noted in his column that, in terms of Gay nightlife, Luxembourg is beginning to look more like Key West, Fla.

Liberal Gay organizations have come to Hormel's support and accuse the Senate of discrimination. "He's completely qualified for the position. There's no reason why his confirmation should not go forward, and the only explanation why it has been held up is anti-Gay bias," said David Smith, a noted strategist for the Human Rights Campaign, in The New York Times.

Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told The San Francisco Chronicle: "I think [the nomination is] the result of very hard work behind the scenes of national Gay and Lesbian organizations that have been pushing and pushing for this appointment."

Hormel has some high-powered, bi-partisan backing. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright criticized the Senate for not confirming Hormel prior to leaving for recess. She stated that the Clinton administration is firmly committed to his bid.

Former Secretary of State George Shultz, who served under President Reagan, has stepped forward in support of Hormel's bewildered nomination. The Examiner reported that Shultz will lobby Lott to lift the roadlocks to the appointment.

This is the third ambassadorship the Clinton administration has attempted to secure for Hormel. He wanted the ambassadorship to Norway, but the country has laws against homosexuality, which he would have been subject to. The White House attempted to appoint him as envoy to Fiji but later learned that the country has similar laws.

Hormel wants to follow in the footsteps of two California Democratic senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, who have served as ambassadors to Luxembourg, a northwestern European nation that is smaller than Rhode Island.

Bennett Can See The Possibility

Former Education Secretary William Bennett, a conservative, was asked, on the ABC TV news show "This Week" in December whether he believes it might be possible for a homosexual to become president.

"As we used to say in Massachusetts, anything's possible," he said.

"I expect you could get a Gay senator from Massachusetts. And that might be fine. I mean, Gerry Studds was elected in Massachusetts. Barney Frank [too], and this after some pretty damning evidence about their behavior, but people said, 'Fine, vote them in.' So sure, this can happen Everything's possible in America."

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Got A Tip?

The Right Angle is willing to investigate Gay & Lesbian political leaders and organizations regardless of their political power and connections.

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Keyes' Position On Homosexual Rights

"I believe that the effort to equate homosexual or lesbian relations with heterosexual relations for public purposes, such as legal marriage and the like, represents a destructive assault on the heterosexual, marriage-based family. For public purposes, the regulation of marriage has as its special aim the establishment of the rights and responsibilities connected with procreation and child-rearing."

"As an institution, therefore, marriage transcends the mere self-gratification of the married couple. By admitting homosexual and lesbian relationships to the privileges of the married state, we would devalue this transcendent status and weaken the duties and the sense of obligation it entails. The regime of easy divorce established in many states already has weakened the fabric of obligation that supports marriage and family life. Recognition of homosexual and lesbian marriages would threaten to destroy it utterly."

Gay and Lesbian conservatives and Republicans must snub Republican Alan Keyes' 2000 presidential candidacy because of his homophobic and schizophrenic political behavior.